

Claims

1. A data unit processing entity (4) in a data unit transmission network (10) comprising a plurality of network nodes (101-112), said network nodes (101-112) comprising routing nodes (101-109) and end nodes (110, 111, 112), said routing nodes (101-109) being arranged to route data units (20, 30) over said data unit transmission network (10) in accordance with a routing protocol (RP), one or more of said end nodes (110, 111, 112) being mobile nodes (110, 111) capable of accessing said data unit transmission network (10) over more than one link, said network nodes being arranged to distinguish between a first type routing address (IA) and a second type routing address (FA) in said data units (20, 30), said first type routing address (IA) serving to identify network nodes (101-112) and said second type routing address (FA) serving to allow routing to mobile nodes (110, 111),
- said data unit processing entity (4) comprising a decision part (41) for setting the second type routing address (FA) in a received data unit (20, 30) that is to be forwarded, an operation of said decision part (41) depending on the first type routing address (IA) set in said received data unit (20, 30) that is to be forwarded and on decision data stored in association with said first type routing address (IA) in a decision data memory (42), said decision data comprising one or more second type routing addresses (FA),
- said data unit processing entity (4) furthermore comprising a management part (43) for said decision data memory (42), where said management part (42) provides an interface to said decision data memory (42) for modifying said decision data,

characterized in that

said interface is arranged to provide a network control  
function (51) with access to said decision data memory  
5 (42), independently of access provided to one or more  
mobile nodes (110, 111).

2. The data unit processing entity of claim 1, wherein said  
decision data comprises one or more decision rules and  
10 one or more decision parameters, and said interface is  
arranged for modifying one or both of said decision  
rules and decision parameters.

3. The data unit processing entity of claim 1 or 2, wherein  
15 said decision part (41) is arranged to dynamically  
select one of said second type routing addresses (FA)  
from said decision data.

4. The data unit processing entity of claim 3, wherein said  
20 decision part (41) is arranged to perform said dynamic  
selection for each data unit (20, 30) to be forwarded.

5. The data unit processing entity of one of the preceding  
claims, wherein said interface is arranged to provide a  
25 plurality of control functions (48, 49, 51, 50) with  
access to said decision data memory (42).

6. The data unit processing entity of claim 5, wherein at  
least one of said control functions (50) is located in  
30 one of said mobile nodes (110, 111).

7. The data unit processing entity of one of claims 5 or 6,  
wherein one or more of said control functions are  
network resource management functions.

8. The data unit processing entity of one of claims 1 to 7,  
35 wherein said network control function (51) is arranged

to determine parameters related to access links (52, 53) over which said mobile nodes (110, 111) access said data unit transmission network (10), and to modify said decision data in dependence on said parameters related to access links (52, 53).

9. A method of controlling a data unit processing entity (4) in a data unit transmission network (10) comprising a plurality of network nodes (101-112), said network nodes (101-112) comprising routing nodes (101-109) and end nodes (110, 111, 112), said routing nodes (101-109) being arranged to route data units (20, 30) over said data unit transmission network (10) in accordance with a routing protocol (RP), one or more of said end nodes (110, 111, 112) being mobile nodes (110, 111) capable of accessing said data unit transmission network (10) over more than one link, said network nodes being arranged to distinguish between a first type routing address (IA) and a second type routing address (FA) in said data units (20, 30), said first type routing address (IA) serving to identify network nodes (101-112) and said second type routing address (FA) serving to allow routing to mobile nodes (110, 111),

said method comprising a decision procedure (S51-S53) for setting the second type routing address (FA) in a received data unit (20, 30) that is to be forwarded, said decision procedure depending on the first type routing address (IA) set in said received data unit (20, 30) that is to be forwarded and on decision data stored in association with said first type routing address (IA) in a decision data memory (42), said decision data comprising one or more second type routing addresses (FA),

said method furthermore comprising a management procedure (S61-S65; S71-S77) for said decision data

memory (42), where said management procedure provides an interface to said decision data memory (42) for modifying said decision data, characterized in that

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said interface is arranged to provide a network control function (51) with access to said decision data memory (42), independently of access provided to one or more mobile nodes (110, 111).

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10. The method of claim 9, wherein said decision data comprises one or more decision rules and one or more decision parameters, and said interface is arranged for modifying one or both of said decision rules and

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decision parameters.

11. The method of claim 9 or 10, wherein said decision procedure dynamically selects one of said second type routing addresses (FA) from said decision data.

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12. The method of claim 11, wherein said decision procedure performs said dynamic selection for each data unit (20, 30) to be forwarded.

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13. The method of one of claims 9 to 12, wherein said interface provides a plurality of control functions (48, 49, 51, 50) with access to said decision data memory (42).

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14. The method of claim 13, wherein at least one of said control functions (50) is located in one of said mobile nodes (110, 111).

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15. The method of one of claims 13 or 14, wherein one or more of said control functions are network resource management functions.

16. The method of one of claims 13 to 15, wherein said  
network control function (51) determines parameters  
related to access links (52, 53) over which said mobile  
5 nodes (110, 111) access said data unit transmission  
network (10), and modifies said decision data in  
dependence on said parameters related to access links  
(52, 53).